

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Health and Family Services  
Division of Children and Family Services

To:      Area Administrators/Human Services Area Coordinators  
         Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare  
         DCFS Bureau Directors  
         County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
         County Departments of Developmental Disabilities Service Directors  
         County Departments of Human Services Directors  
         County Departments of Human Services Supervisors  
         County Departments of Social Services Directors  
         County Departments of Social Services Supervisors  
         Group Foster Home Licensees  
         Child Placing Agency Licensees  
         Licensing Chiefs/Licensing Supervisors  
         Tribal Chairpersons/Human Services Facilitators

From: Burnie Bridge  
         Administrator

*WB7*

Re:      Summary of Service and Support Needs of Foster Parents

This memo includes a report about the service and support needs of foster parents, a product developed by the Out-of-Home Care Committee to address Action Step K. in the Program Enhancement Plan, Wisconsin's response to the federal Child and Family Services Review. The Out-of-Home Care Committee was created out of the Program Enhancement Plan process to address a range of items related to out-of-home care including permanency planning, services for foster families, placement stability and re-entry, involving non-custodial parents and relatives, and other issues.

In order to address this issue, the Out-of-Home Care Committee was assigned to identify the service and support needs of foster parents, develop a profile of identified needs and gaps in services, and make recommendations for responding to those needs. To accomplish these tasks, the committee used existing sources of information from foster parents and also held regional focus groups with foster parents, child placing agencies, contracted service providers, and county foster care coordinators. The final document outlining service and support needs of foster parents and recommendations to address those needs is attached to this memo. The suggestions listed under each concern are recommendations made by foster parents, staff who work with foster families, and members of the Out-of-Home Care Committee for consideration by local agencies, state agencies, and other groups or agencies who work with foster care.

This document will be used to inform future policies developed by the Division of Children and Family Services. Please review the attached "Summary of Service and Support Needs of Foster Parents" document, discuss the needs of foster parents within your agency, and consider ways the information contained in this document can be used to support foster parents in your agency.

To access information about the Program Enhancement Plan, please visit the Department of Health and Family Services web site for the PEP at <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/cwreview/PEP.htm>

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MEMO WEB SITE: [http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/dcfs\\_info/](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/dcfs_info/)

cc: BPP Adoption Contract Agencies  
BPP Adoption Staff  
County Foster Care Coordinators  
CPS Supervisors  
Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center  
Private Foster Care Agency Contacts  
Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (WFAPA)

Attachments: [Summary of Service and Support Needs of Foster Parents](#)

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